

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the above-referenced application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A ball marking device, comprising:
 - a marking device for marking a putting directional indicator on a dynamic axis of a ball; and
 - a braking mechanism, wherein said braking mechanism holds said ball in a position that allows said marking device to mark said putting directional indicator on said dynamic axis.
2. (Original) The ball marking device of claim 1, further comprising:
 - means for locating said dynamic axis of said ball.
3. (Currently amended) The ball marking device of claim 1, wherein said marking device is adapted to mark the putting directional indicator comprises: when said putting directional indicator includes a design other than that of a circumferential line.
4. (Original) The ball marking device of claim 3, wherein said design comprises:
 - an identifying mark.

5. (Original) The ball marking device of claim 4, wherein said identifying mark is selected from the group consisting of: letters, words, short sentences, symbols, names, initials, numbers, images, photographs, crosses, decorative marks, and any combination thereof.
6. (Original) The ball marking device of claim 1, wherein said ball is entirely free of markings prior to operation of said ball marking device.
7. (Original) The ball marking device of claim 1, wherein said marking device and said braking mechanism comprise separate, non-integral devices.
8. (Original) The ball marking device of claim 1, wherein said marking device comprises a laser marking system.

Claims 9 – 18 (Cancelled)

19. (Currently amended) A method of marking a ball, comprising ~~the steps of:~~
 - locating a dynamic axis of a ball;
 - identifying said dynamic axis; [[and]]
 - holding a position of the ball fixed so that said dynamic axis is at a specific
 - location; and
 - marking a putting directional indicator along said dynamic axis,
 - wherein said locating, identifying and marking steps are automated.

Claims 20 – 22 (Cancelled)

23. (Currently amended) The method of claim 19, further comprising ~~the step of~~:

performing all of said steps on multiple balls in a flow of balls through an automated assembly-line.

24. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein said putting directional indicator comprises:

a design other than that of a circumferential line.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein said design comprises:

an identifying mark.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein said identifying mark is selected from the

group consisting of: letters, words, short sentences, symbols, names, initials, numbers, images, photographs, crosses, decorative marks, and any combination thereof.